In so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, necessary equipments and medicines are available. The ambulances in the hospital are used for the use of patients.

Guidelines for Blood Banks

4066 SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any orders regarding guidelines and accredition norms for the blood banks spread throughout the country have been issued so as to ensure prevention of infection with HIV and other diseases during blood transfusion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether other important norms have also been added to these orders alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Standards for Blood Banks and Blood Transfusion Services have been issued by National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health, Government of India after due approval of National Blood Transfusion Council. The standards include details on all importants areas of functioning of Blood Banks. The testing of transfusion transmissible infections, including HIV and hepatitis, is mandatory for the blood banks to obtain a license from the Drug Control Authorities.

(c) Confirmatory tests and post test counselling will be done in the large blood banks collecting more than 3000 units per year for persons who were found HIV positive after the first test used for screening of blood.

Promotion of telemedicine

4067. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the President of International Society for Telemedicine and e-health, India is poised for big growth in telemedicine;